

Hot Questions – 21 February 2022

Emergencies Act

Update on enforcement?

As of end of day yesterday, 206 financial products (i.e. bank accounts) have been frozen by financial institutions for a total of approximately \$7.488 million.

\$1,200,000 total in Crypto currency and 253 addresses reported to crypto exchanges.

Further details on enforcement are only shared with the RCMP, as is appropriate.

How can someone unfreeze their bank account?

If you stop providing financial support directly or indirectly to the illegal blockades, then your account can be unfrozen. That is what the Order says.

Anyone who believes that their account was frozen in error should call customer service for their financial institution.

What about small donations?

The Orders under the Emergencies Act took effect on February 15th. They do not apply retroactively. An account could be frozen if the person provided financial support after the 15th or is still providing financial support directly or indirectly to these unlawful assemblies. The focus of this order is on individuals and entities identified by law enforcement who are currently participating in, or actively financially supporting, the illegal blockades.

N.B. Minister Blair said yesterday on Global “I want to assure those people who made donations ... that’s ... of no interest whatsoever to our law enforcement officials.”

Is the Emergencies Order even needed?

We are absolutely conscious of the magnitude of invoking the Emergencies Act and we did so with great care. We know the threat still exists: just last week police in Windsor thwarted a further plan to blockade the Ambassador Bridge. And we continued to receive intelligence reports.

These threats to our democracy, our economy, and to peace, order and good government, are unacceptable. As soon as the job is done, we will end these measures.

Miscellaneous

Costal Gas Link reaction?

Extremely concerned about this violent attack. I conveyed last week my support for the workers.

RCMP are investigating and my colleague the Minister of Public Safety can comment further.

Ukraine

We are very concerned that a further invasion by Russia could happen at any time.

We are in close contact with our partners and allies about the situation.

Let me reiterate: any further invasion by Russia will be met with swift and crushing sanctions.

G20 intervention?

Those meetings are held in camera so it would be inappropriate to comment publicly. But I can assure you that there is no daylight between what Canada says publicly and privately on this issue.